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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/17/02 10:53pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello I am writing an opinion on the Microsoft settlement.

First and foremost I believe that any punishment short of dividing the company is not harsh enough. Second the proposal for them to donate software to schools is yet another thinly veiled attempt to increase their presence in the world. Giving away their own product for free is something that has absolutely no effect on their monopoly status and will only do more to increase it. Apple computer is right to object to this proposal. Being that Apple has relatively zero market share in the corporate world, education is their biggest non consumer market. Their small market share could be diminished much more for Microsoft to simply give away their own stuff. This would eliminate the competition between the two thus bringing up the Anti-competitive practices Microsoft has used to date to become the monster it is.

How the company was allowed to get to this point is beyond me. Imagine if GM was the car maker that supplied 95% of the planets cars. A settlement now is irrelevant. They should have been dealt with a decade ago. However I do have an idea short of splitting up the company. Hows this?

Microsoft must pay a sum to schools who haven't opted for the Windows platform for future purchases. They should also donate money to business and schools who opt out of renewing a Windows license for a competitors platform (Linux, Unix, Macintosh OS). In addition they should be allowed to donate money to low income schools and communities to let them use the money as they see fit.

Microsoft must allow OEM computer manufacturers to configure OS preferences AS THEY WISH, free of hidden penalties and injunctions. OEM's should be allowed to put a Quicktime or REAL player icon on the desktop and not a Media Player icon if that is what they want to do.

Microsoft must face continual sanctions for their past actions (much like a terrorist state) limiting their market reach. Especially in the area of forcing companies to upgrade to newer product licenses even when they don't want to upgrade or have no reason to other than for Microsoft to keep their stronghold.

Microsoft must keep producing OFFICE for the Apple Macintosh platform even if Apple doesn't want to make Internet Explorer the default browser.

A personal gripe: Microsoft must make their programs easier to delete off a computers hard drive, Macintosh or PC.

These are just a few suggestions. If only one is helpful than that is at least a start. Anyhow SOMETHING EFFECTIVE must be done.

Thank You.